

HO-480

Cricket Creek Farm

circa 1840

Clarksville

Private

Cricket Creek Farm faces south on the west side of Route 32, just north of Cricket Creek. It is a two story high, three bay wide, one room deep, gabled roof (running east-west) log house covered with square cut shingles with square brick chimney inset into its east wall and another wider chimney inset into the interior dividing wall of the original log house, consisting of the west and central bay of the house.

This century old log house was once connected to the holdings of the Welling and Watkins' families, who settled on sections of White Wine and Claret. It's surrounding acreage and barns are now utilized for the operation of the Cricket Creek Horse Farm, under the management of its owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ballenger.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-480

Dist. 5

MAGE #1-404805-435

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Cricket Creek Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Cricket Creek Farm Rt. 32 (Guilford Road)

CITY, TOWN

Clarksville

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

6th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE,
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES RESTRICTED
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Ballenger, Jr.

Telephone #: 596-4182

STREET & NUMBER

Cricket Creek Farm

CITY, TOWN

Clarksville, MD

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE Tax Map 34, p.89
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Hall of Records

Liber #: 725

Folio #: 556

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cricket Creek Farm is located on the west side of Route 32, just north of Cricket Creek. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) log and shingled house with wide brick central chimney and additions on its east and north walls.

The east addition is a mid to late nineteenth century, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) log structure extending from the east wall of the original four room house, both sections of which are laid on a stone foundation with wide log supporting beams holding wide, random width floor boards which have been covered by recent narrow hardwood floors.

Rectangular entrances are located on the north and south elevations of the house. See Figure 1, first floor plan. Fenestration for the house is vertically aligned and proportionally scaled, featuring first floor double hung windows with six-over-six lights in the original log house and six-over-three light second floor windows. The later nineteenth century addition features two-over-two light first floor windows and similar six-over-three light second floor windows.

The original log house held two first floor rooms divided by a wide brick chimney, with two rooms above and a small, narrow staircase ascending to the rooms above in the southwest corner of the present kitchen. A batten wood door serves as an entrance to the staircase. A small one story high kitchen pantry is located along the kitchen's north wall with a six-over-six light window in its west wall.

Woodwork throughout the log house is unmitred, simple post and lintel construction. The mantle piece in the living room is also simple in design.

Sometime in the late nineteenth century the additional first floor living room with bedroom above was constructed off the east wall of the log house. It features two-over-two light windows, mitred, fluted pilastered woodwork and a staircase in the north west corner of the living room. This staircase also has a batten wood door, though it is a bit wider than that in the kitchen.

In 1925 the bathroom was added. The first and second floor double windows on the south wall of the addition may have been installed at this time, as well as a second floor closet in the southwest corner.

A later twentieth century, one story high, shed roofed addition is located off the north wall of the early log house's living room. It holds large one-over-one light windows in its north and east walls. A one story high, shed roofed open porch runs along the remainder of the building's north elevation, or along the present living room's north wall. Its east wall holds a square brick chimney to which originally a stove was attached. Two-over-two light, first floor, rectangular windows rest on each side of it, with no second floor windows on this elevation. Southwest of the log house is a covered stone well and still further south and west auxiliary frame buildings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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— Continued, Description sheet

A large 1922 barn is located woutheast of the house. The boards of which it is constructed came from the old saw mill once located east of the property.

On the south side of the road which leads from Route 32 to the house is located an old gabled roof spring house with west door.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cricket Creek Farm is significant architecturally and historically. Historically it is connected with the Welling and Watkins' families of Clarksville, who played such a prominent role in the establishment of Howard County. Arabella Catharine Welling Watkins was the only daughter of Mr. William Welling and the wife of Thomas G. Watkins, the son of W. W. Watkins, the first Clerk of the Court for Howard County. The house was probably a tenant house for the larger holdings and houses owned by these families.

On May 4, 1870 Arabella and Thomas Watkins conveyed certain lots or parcels, originally containing 180⁺ acres to his father W. W. Watkins. The 1878 Hopkins Atlas notes a property of a 180⁺ acres on this site, with a building belonging to Katie Watkins noted in the vicinity of the present building, which is located just north of Cricket Creek.

On February 27, 1883 Arabella Watkins conveyed this farm to Bridget and Michael H. Cooney. The farm at that time consisted of 123⁺ acres. (46-106) Michael Cooney, after the death of his wife Bridget, conveyed the farm to Charles Cooney on December 30, 1911 (WWLC 92-249)

It passed through several owners, James and Ada Clark, Norman and Margaret Howard, Arthur K. Pickett, Harold and Ruth Benson, Milton Henkel and Claude and Gertrude Kruhm to its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ballenger who have named it Cricket Creek Farm.

Architecturally it is a fine old log house and reputed to have been built circa 1840.

Supporting beams under the first floor are of log. Staircases are narrow and enclosed, with batten wood entrance doors. The original house is said to have been constructed by a man six foot tall who had three sons.

The west side of the house consists of two first and two second floor rooms with central brick fireplace inset into its dividing wall. Unmitred wood work in this section of the house supports an early construction date coupled with the small scale of the second floor rooms, which feature three-over-three double-hung windows. The second floor east room has been divided in half to provide a bath and smaller bedroom.

The present building is covered with square cut shingles and is in excellent condition. An additional one story high, shed roofed addition and open porch run along the north elevation of the house, whose interior scale and fenestration as well as its log construction make it one of Howard Counties most delightful buildings.

Any future realignment of Route 32 should insure the integrity of this building and its site, which is presently used as a horse farm. Its

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

inclusion to the National Register of Historic Sites as well as the State
Critical Area Program is recommended to insure its continued preservation.
Not only the house, but the interesting assemblage of outbuildings should
be included in such a recommendation. The barn (1926), as well as an early
shed and spring house are notable in this respect.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Interview with Mrs. John Ballerger at Cricket Creek Farm, July 13, 1978.
Hopkins Atlas of 1878.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 24.46 Acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 34.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 725, folio 556

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Howard

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

465-5000 x257

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

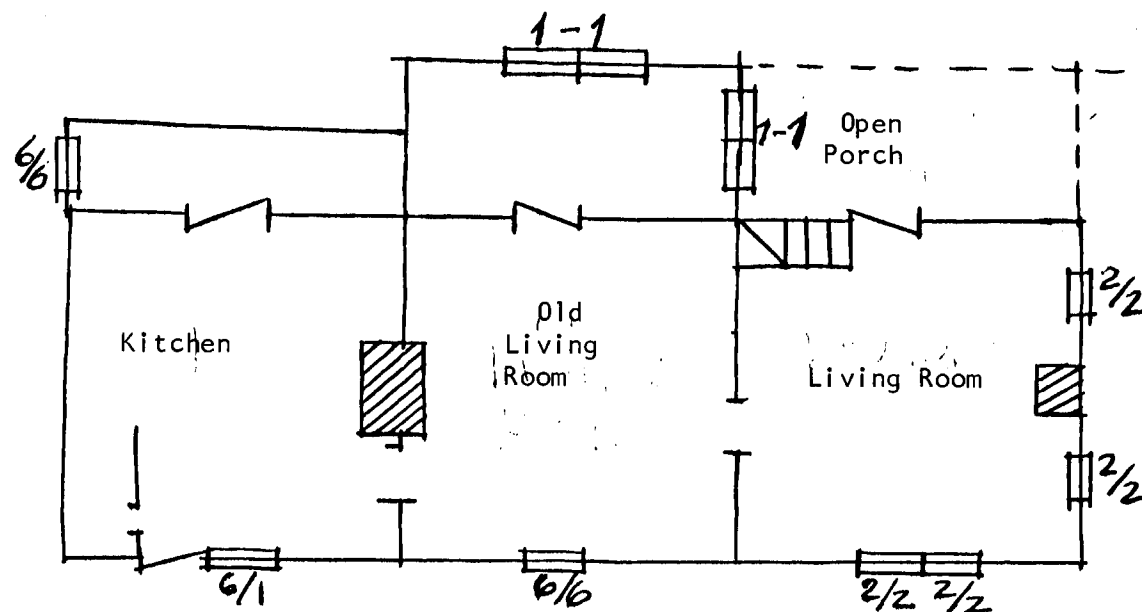


Figure 1
 H0-480
 Cricket Creek Farm
 First Floor Plan

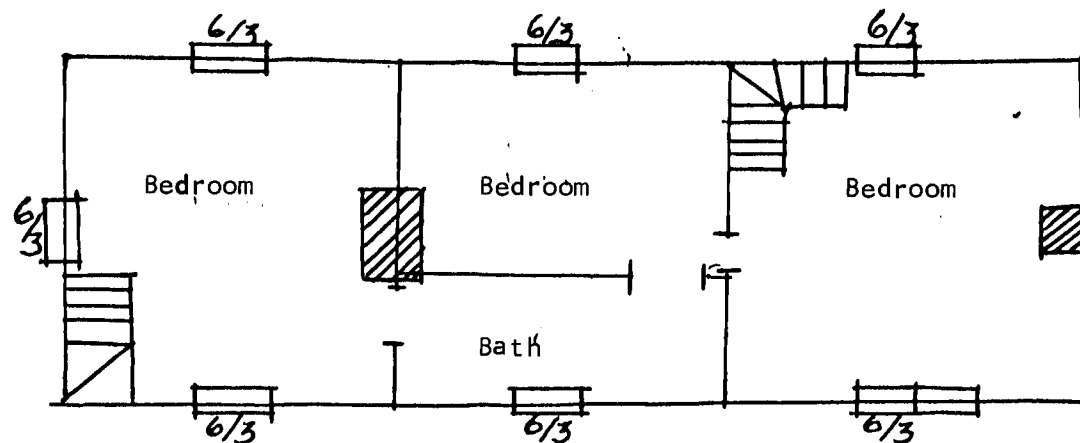
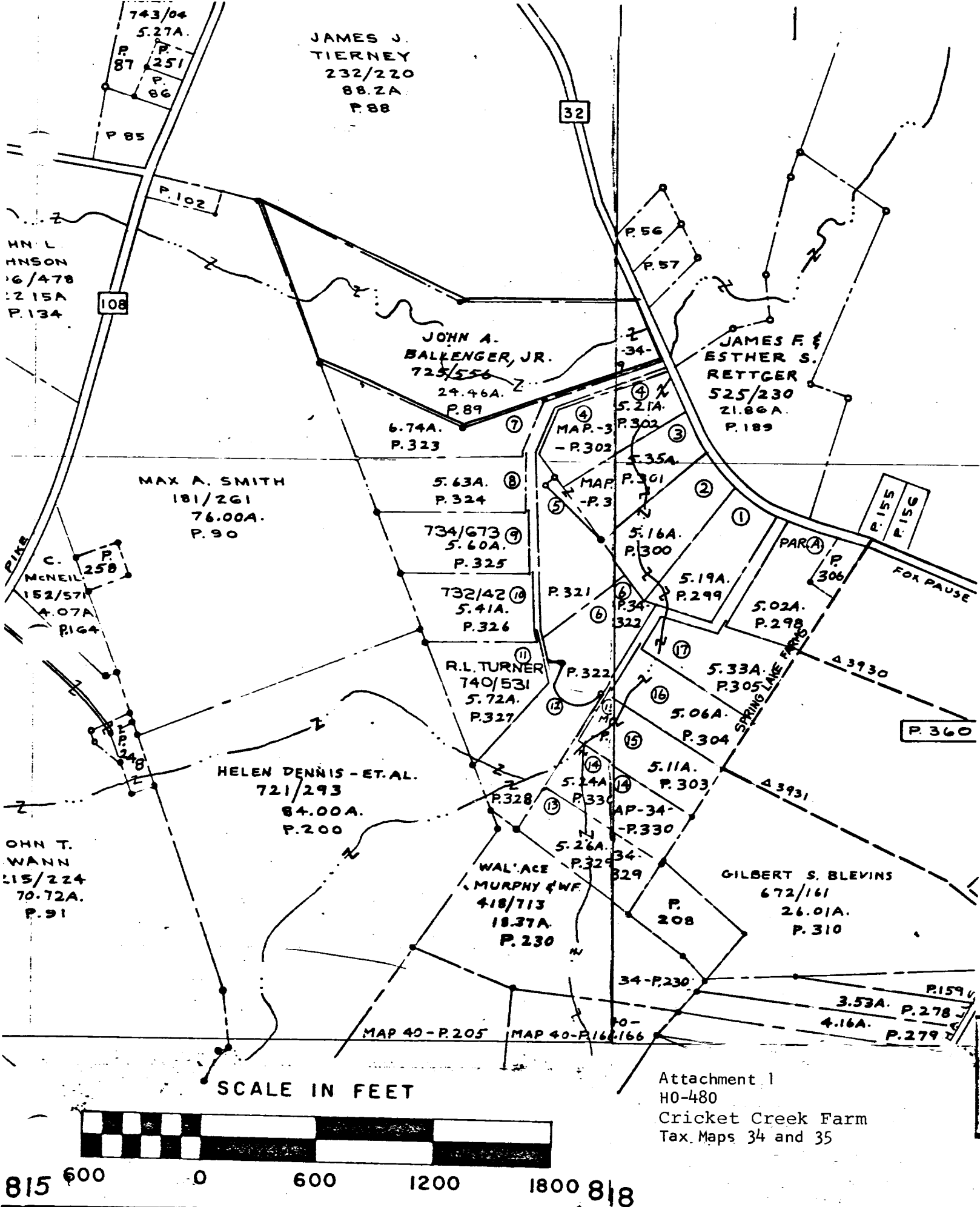
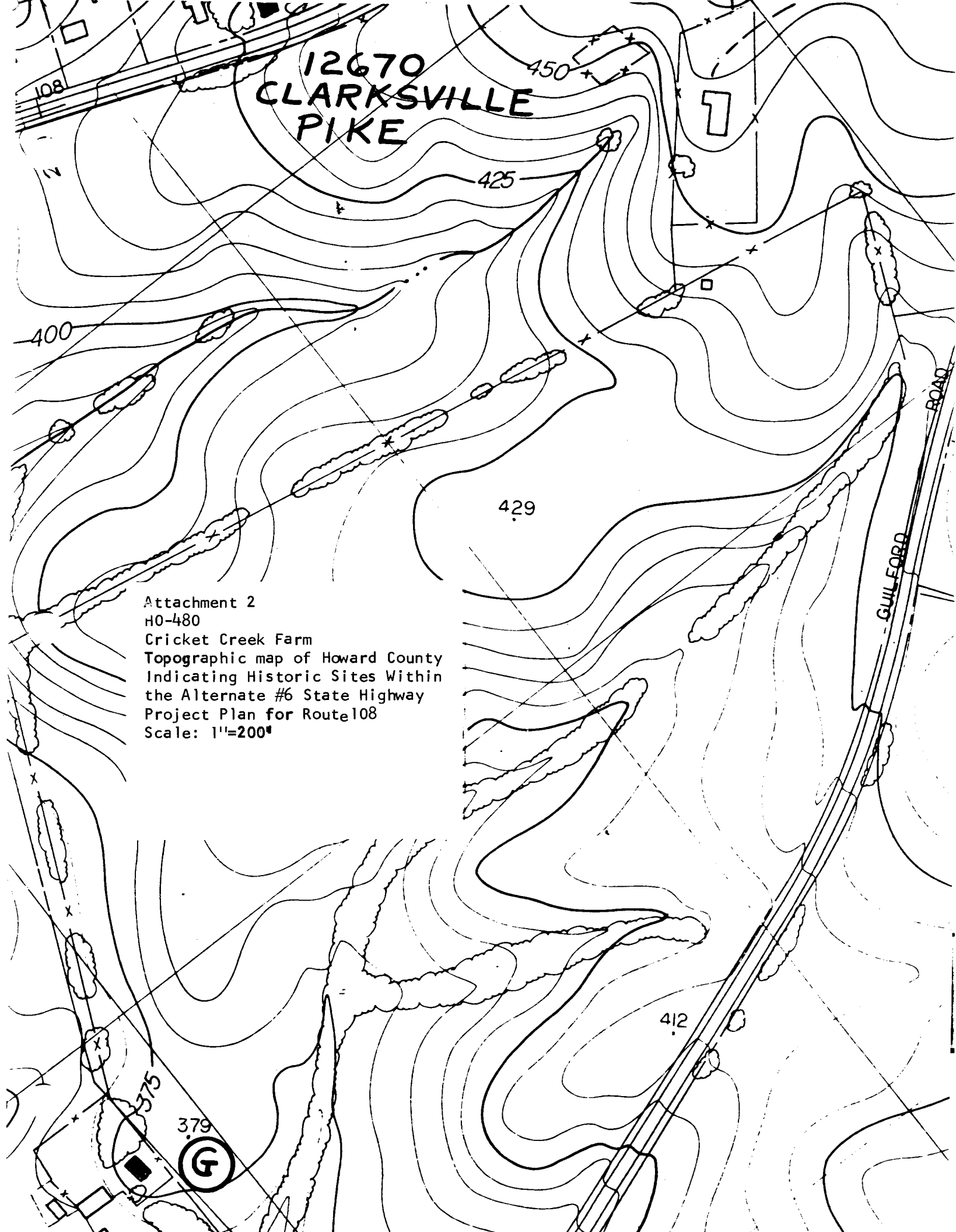


Figure 2
H0-480
Cricket Creek Farm
Second Floor Plan



Attachment 1
H0-480
Cricket Creek Farm
Tax Maps 34 and 35



Attachment 2
H0-480
Cricket Creek Farm
Topographic map of Howard County
Indicating Historic Sites Within
the Alternate #6 State Highway
Project Plan for Route 108
Scale: 1"=200'



Hd-480 (G)
CRICKET CREEK FARM
NORTHEAST
JULY - 1978

CHEORA THOMSON, AD